

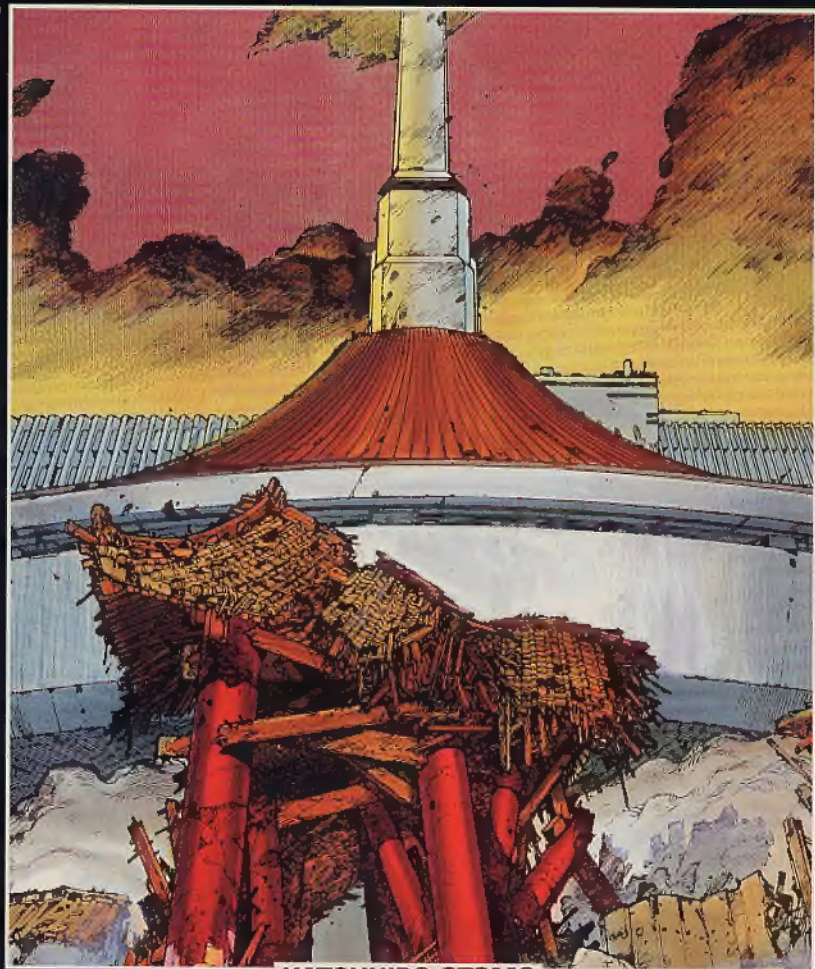
# AKIRA

27

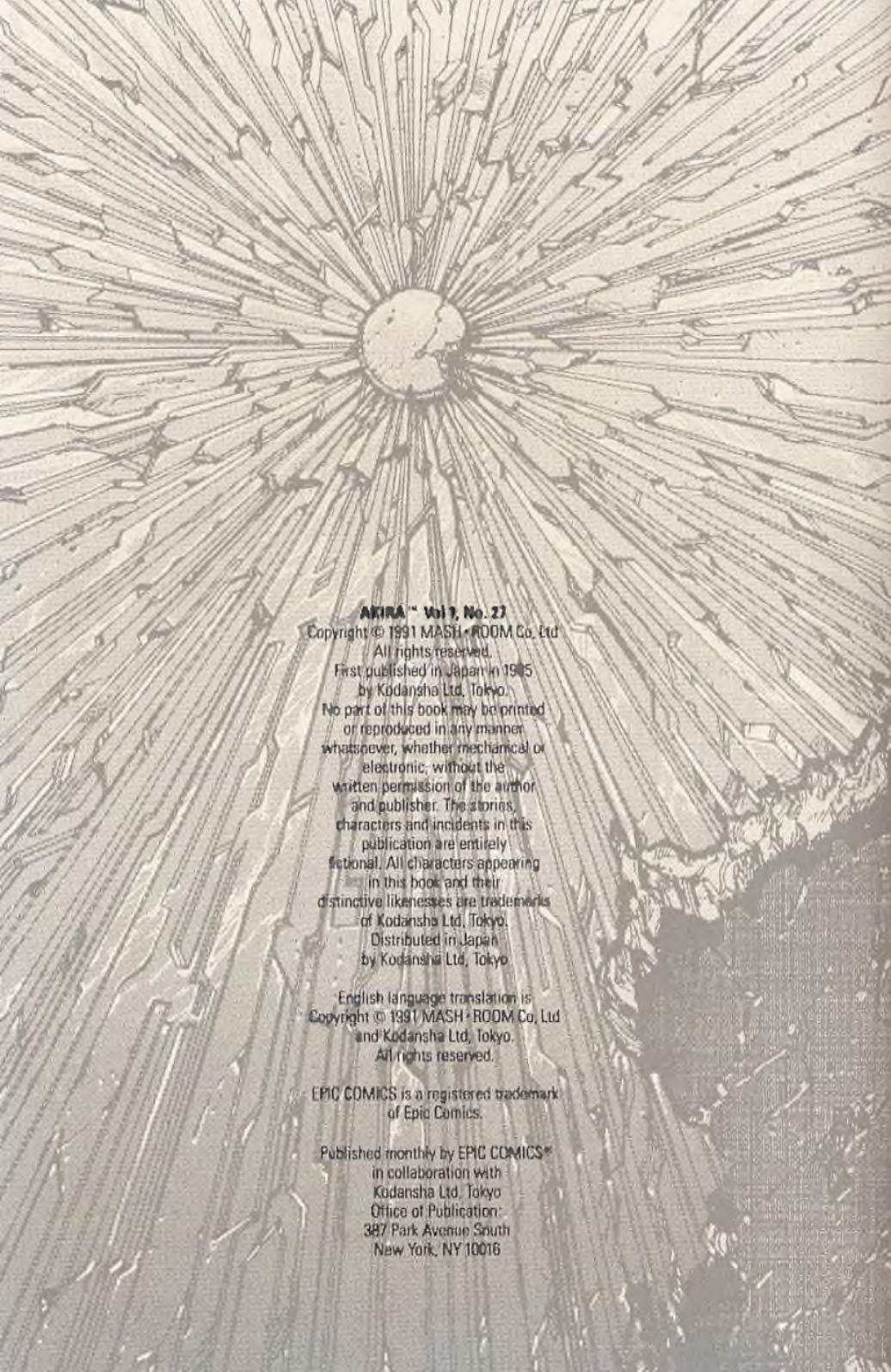
TM



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



**AKIRA™ Vol 1, No. 23**

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# AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 27

## THE GRAND CONVOCATION

## WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

**2**030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members include **Kay**, **Ryu**, and **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masanu**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's close friend, but now his greatest enemy.

**Tetsuo** lost his arm to a laser blast from the military satellite SOL and has used telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic left arm.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—

**Akira**—a quiet boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep forty years ago, when he started the third world war with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**. Shortly thereafter, he responded to an emotional trauma by again devastating the re-created city of Neo-Tokyo. Japan now exists in a state of emergency, with the forces of the army and the resistance scattered, the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrolling the streets, and new powers and allegiances arising within.

In the western part of the Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs and training to develop psychic abilities in certain of their subjects. Among their



Kai



Lady Miyako



Kay



Tetsuo

numerous followers is a dapper assistant determined at all costs to destroy **Lady Miyako**, who offers sanctuary to any who come to her eastern shrine.

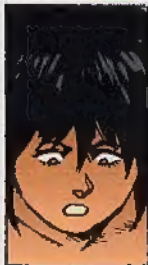
The Empire is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world. All of the spies except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada**, but soon after, **Tetsuo** meets the pair and reveals that **Yamada** has come to kill **Akira**. The spy decides to separate from his persistent would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is determined to kill **Tetsuo** to atone for bringing about what he believes could become another **Akira**. At this same time, **Tetsuo** is trying to master his own weaknesses and his powers, so that he might control **Akira's** awesome might. Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako** and her psychically gifted monks are caring for **Masaru** and **Kiyoko**, who are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers. They await the return of **Kaneda** and his friend **Kay** and **Chiyoko**—both of whom were wounded in battle with **Tetsuo's** follow-

ers. **Lady Miyako** is particularly concerned about **Kay**, because although **Kay** lacks native telepathic abilities, the girl is a powerful medium for the talents of others.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists assembles. They pool their knowledge of the **Akira** project, code-named **Juvenile A**. Their data indicates that the effect of **Akira's** power is like that of the Big Bang and that the most recent blast (which was one of **Tetsuo's**) lacked the scope and dimension of the ones **Akira** caused.

The scientists are aghast when they learn that the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps**. They are even more upset by the knowledge that the soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. Almost as if in confirmation of this, **Tetsuo** decides to pay a visit to his "fan club." During a flight exercise, the boy casually destroys a plane, killing the pilot. Then he taunts the scientists of **Juvenile A** for their limited ideas and aspirations before disappearing in a burst of destructive telekinetic energy.



Kaori



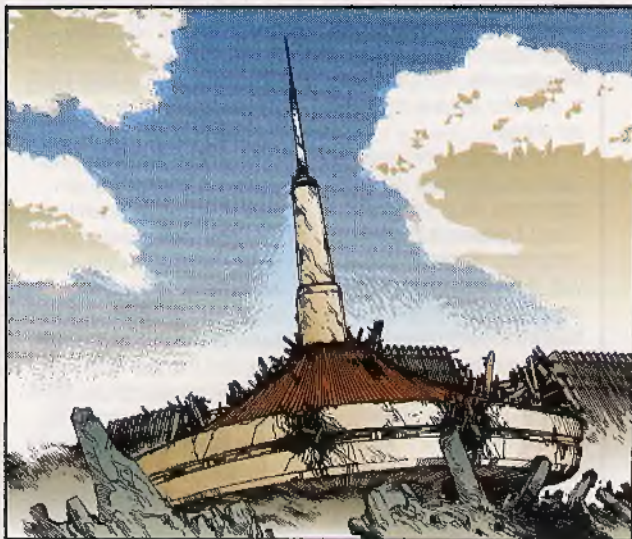
Akira

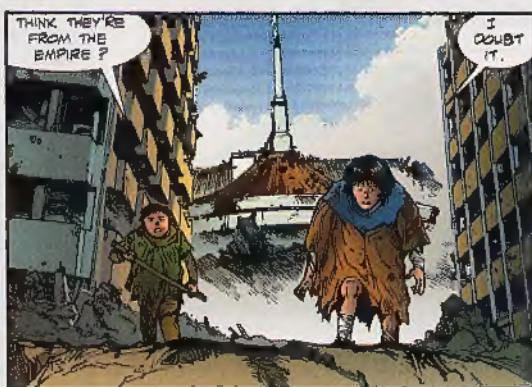
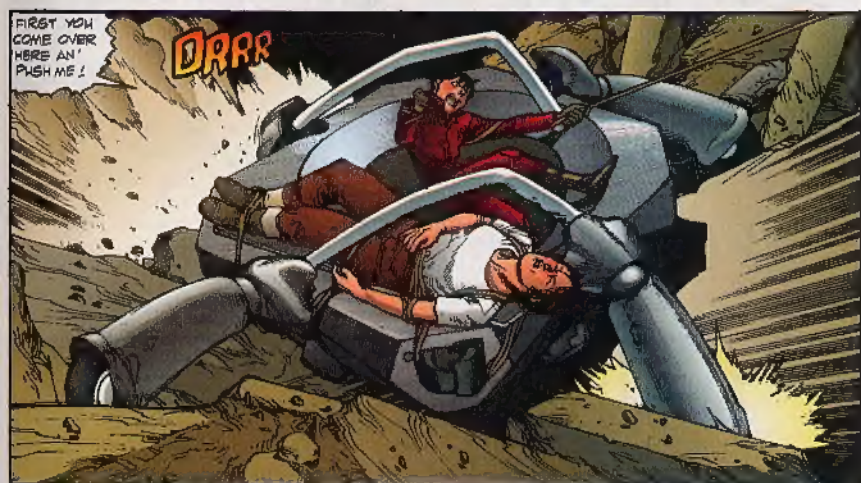
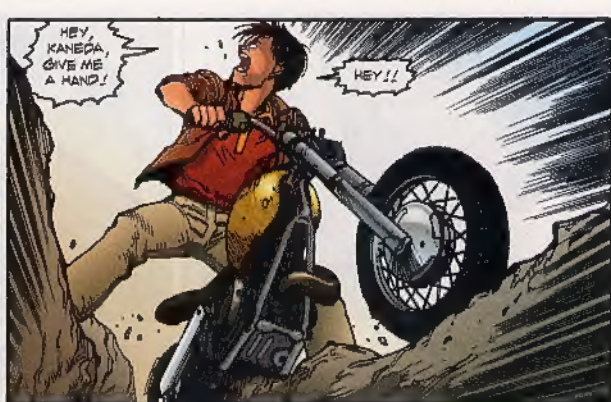


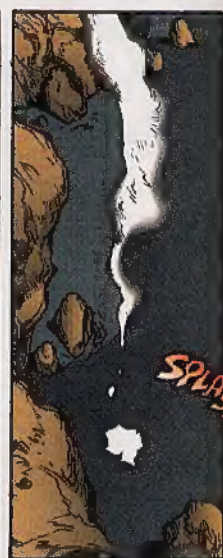
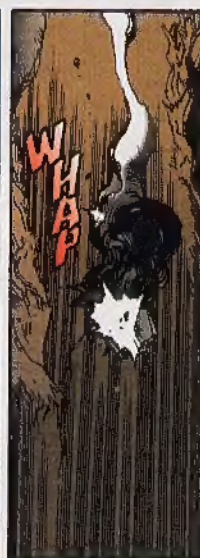
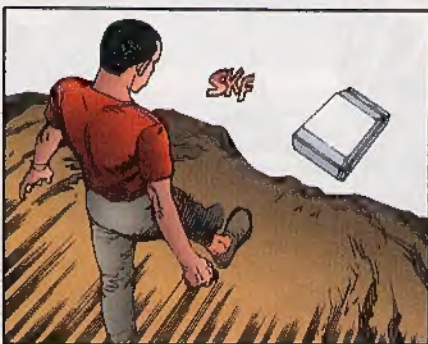
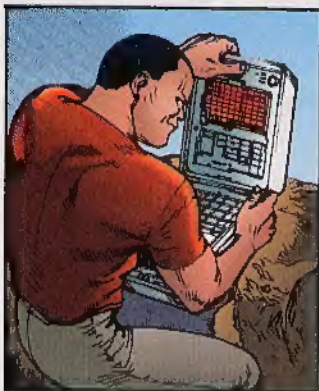
The Colonel

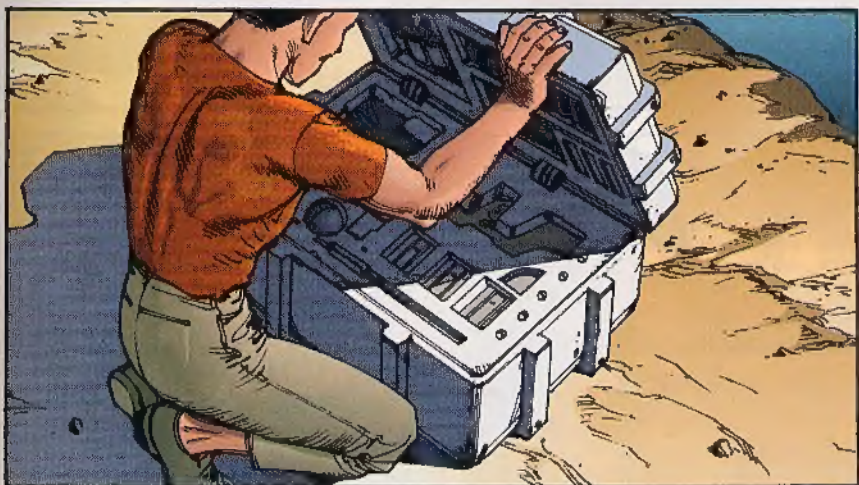
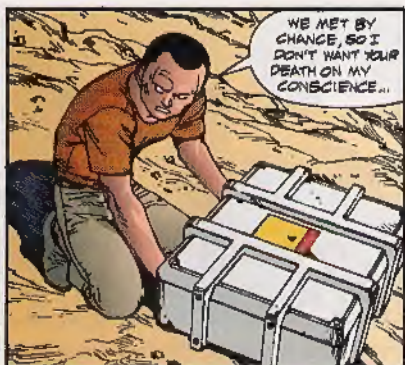


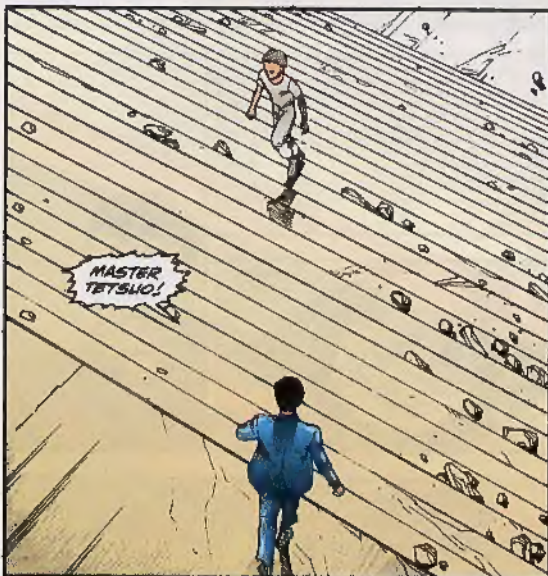
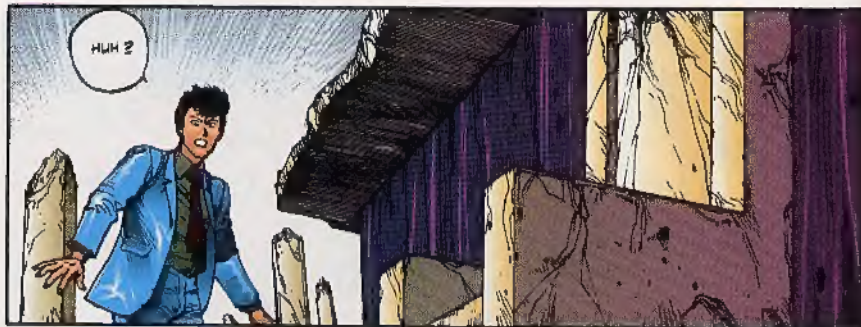
Kaneda













WHAT?



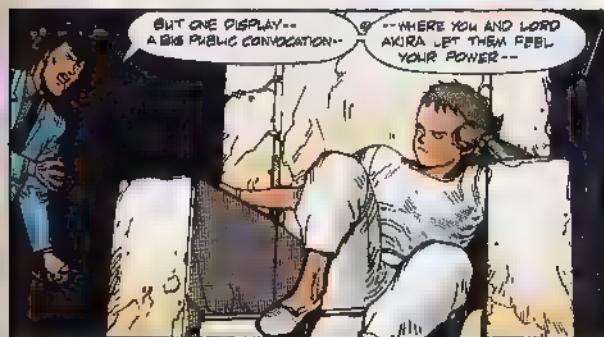
YOU'RE ASKING FOR A PUBLIC MEETING?

YES, YESSIR!



MYAKO'S INFLUENCE IS BEING FELT THROUGHOUT OUR EMPIRE

SOME OF OUR SUBJECTS ARE WEAK AND CONFUSED THEY'RE BEING LED ASTRAY.

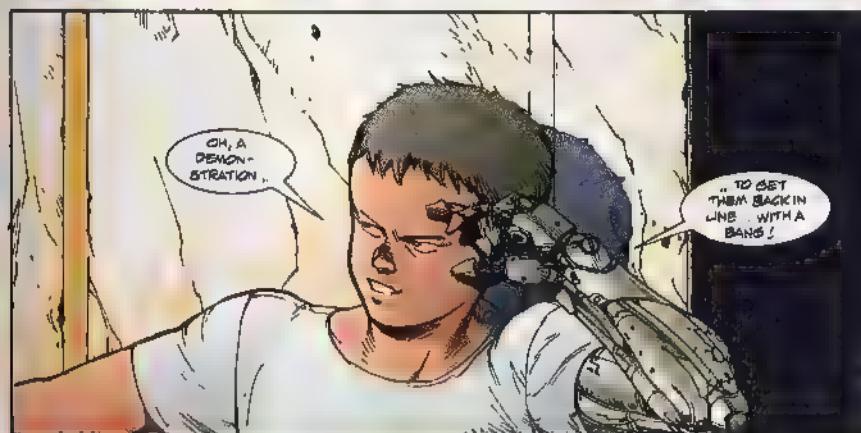


BUT ONE DISPLAY-- A BIG PUBLIC CONVOCATION--

--WHERE YOU AND LORD AKIRA LET THEM FEEL YOUR POWER--

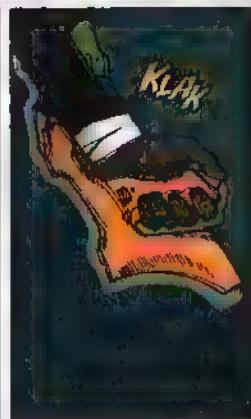
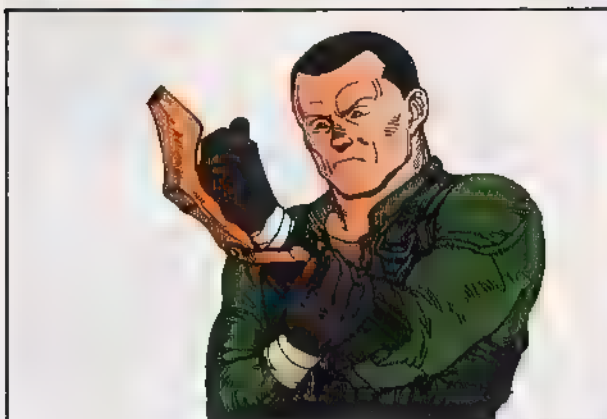
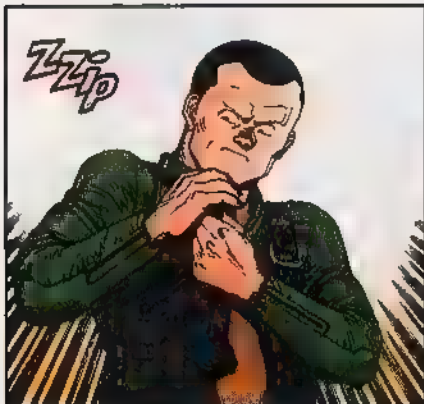


-- THAT WOULD SHOW THEM! AND HUMBLE THEM!

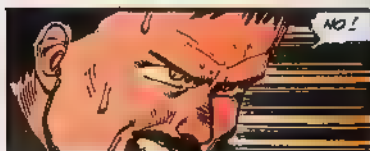
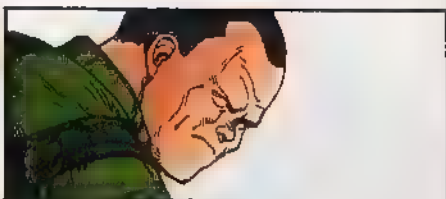
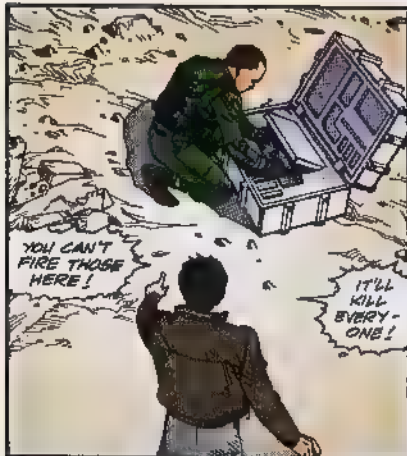


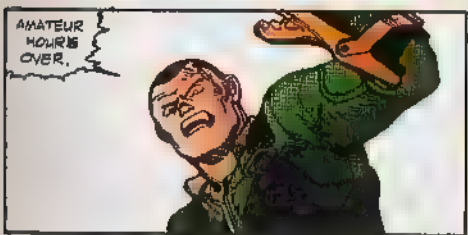
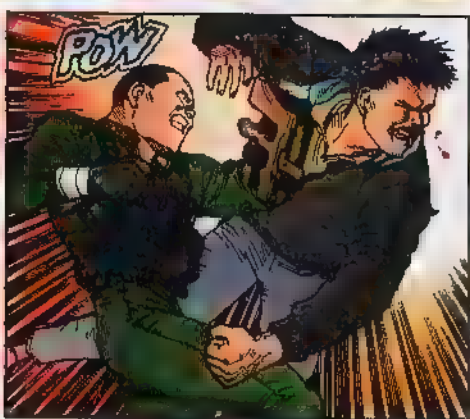
OH, A DEMON-STRATION.

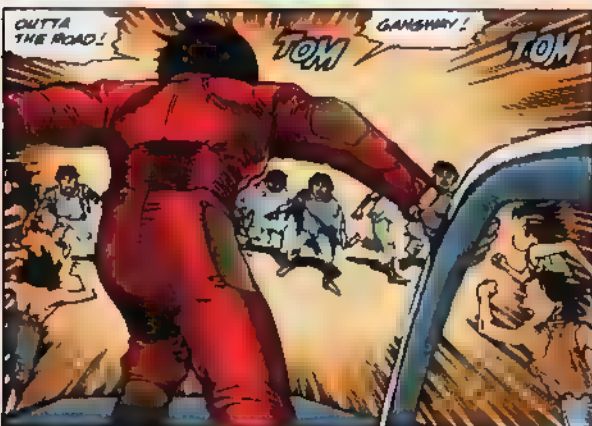
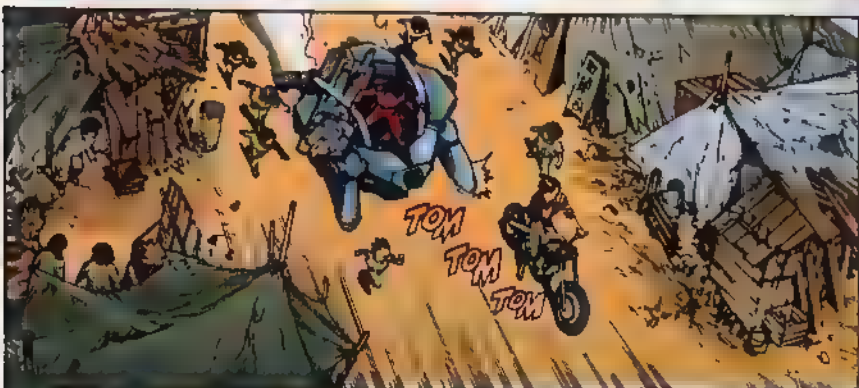
" TO GET THEM BACK IN LINE . WITH A BANG !

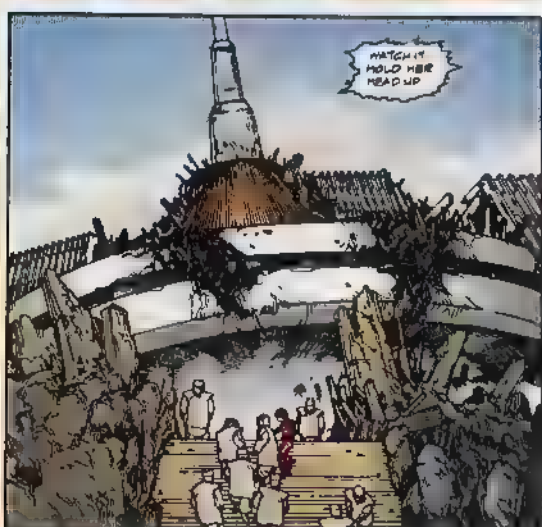
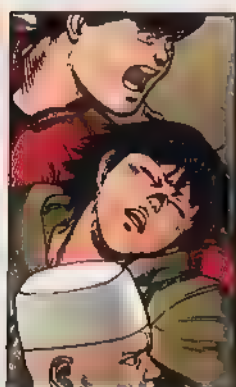


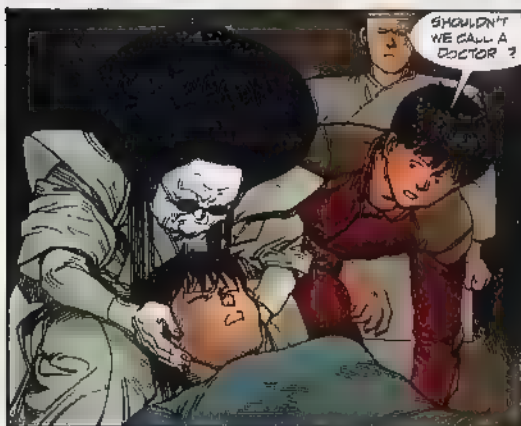
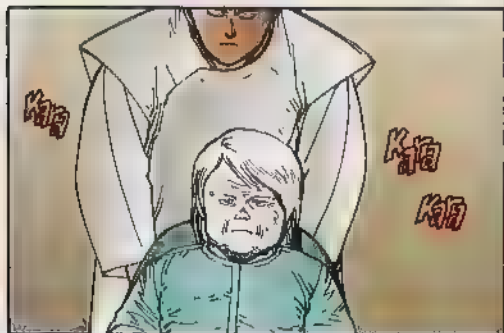
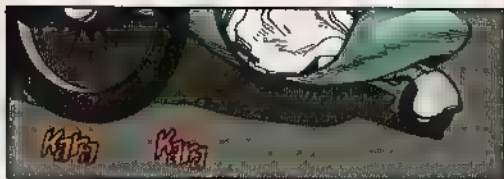
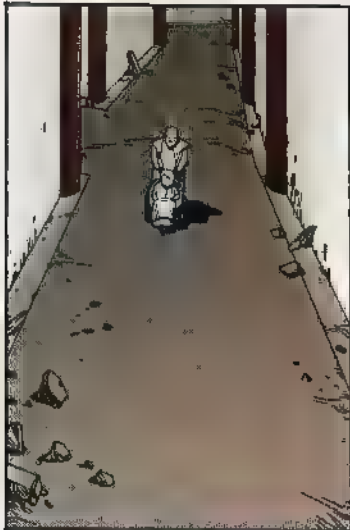










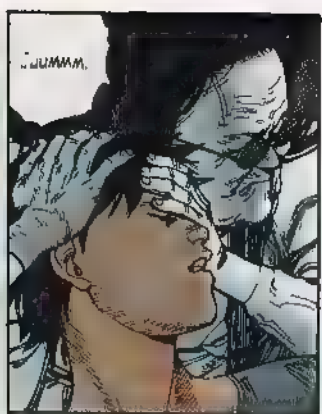




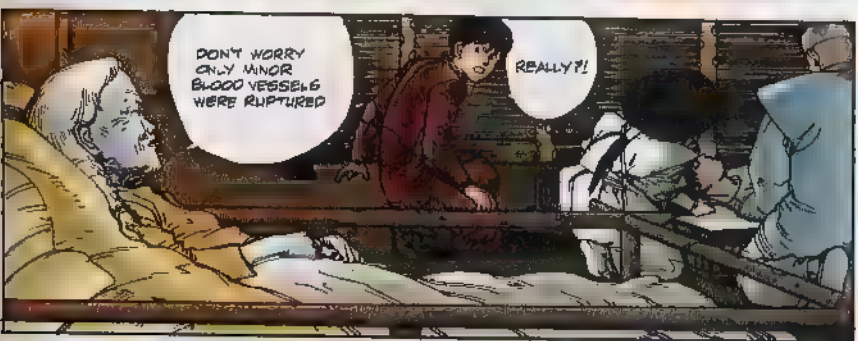
WHAT'S HAPPENING?  
WILL SHE  
BE OKAY?

LADY  
MIYAKO  
IS HEALING  
HER

NOW  
BE  
SILENT



WUWUWU...



DON'T WORRY  
ONLY MINOR  
BLOOD VESSELS  
WERE RUPTURED

REALLY?!



IS SHE  
REALLY GONNA  
MAKE IT?

THE WOUND  
IS ALREADY  
CLOSED.

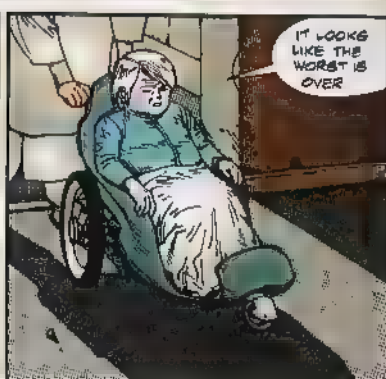
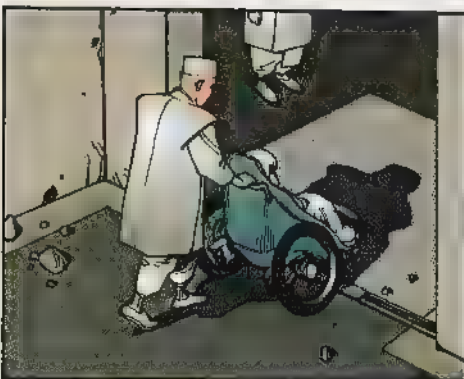
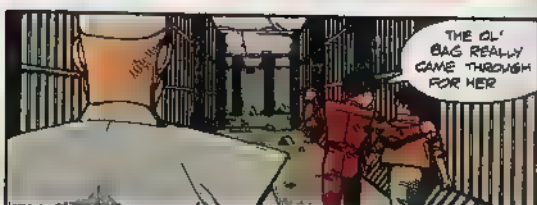


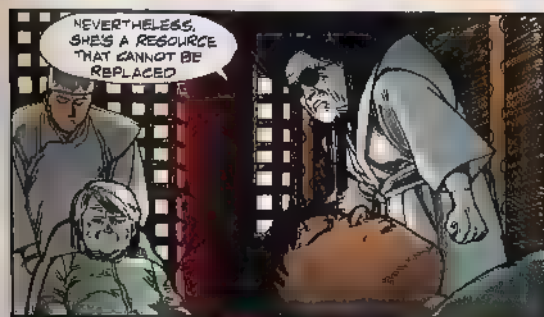
KAY...

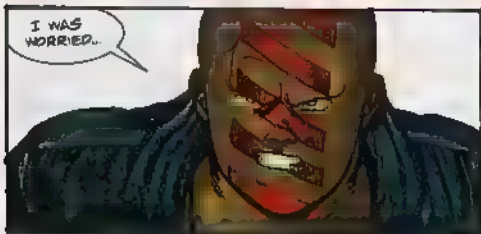
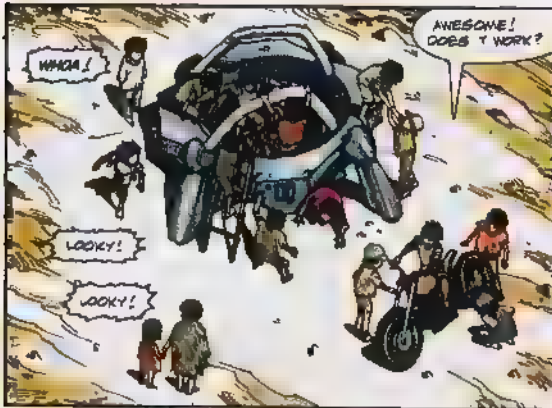


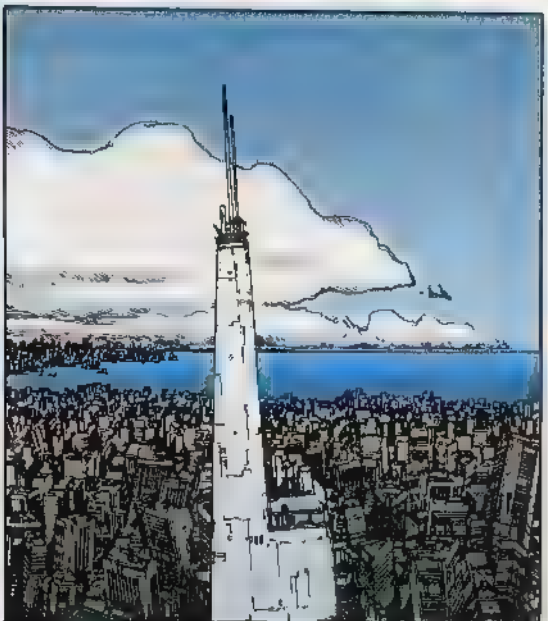
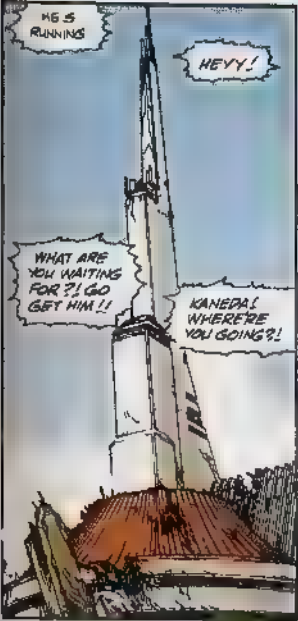
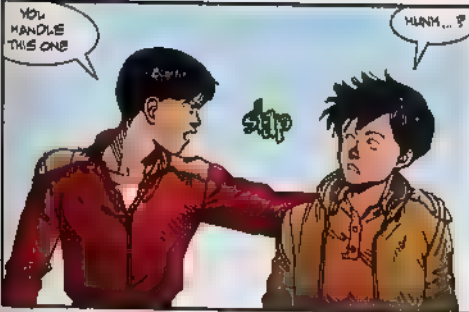
IT WILL TAKE  
SOME TIME FOR  
THE BLOOD IN  
THE VENTRICLES  
OF HER BRAIN  
TO BE RE  
ABSORBED...

BUT  
SHE'LL BE  
FINE

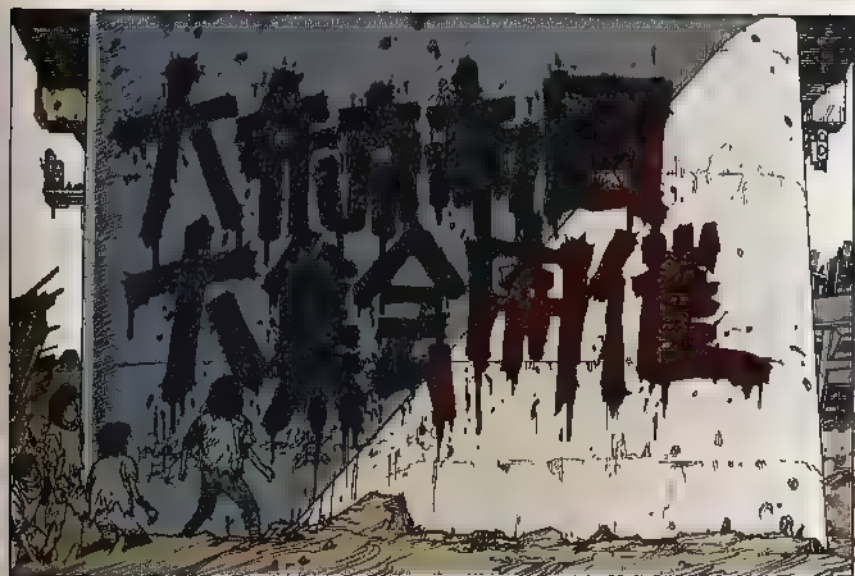
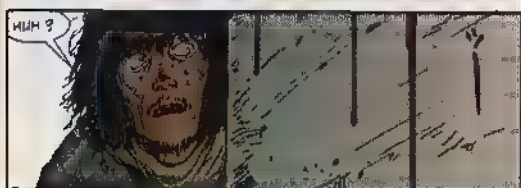


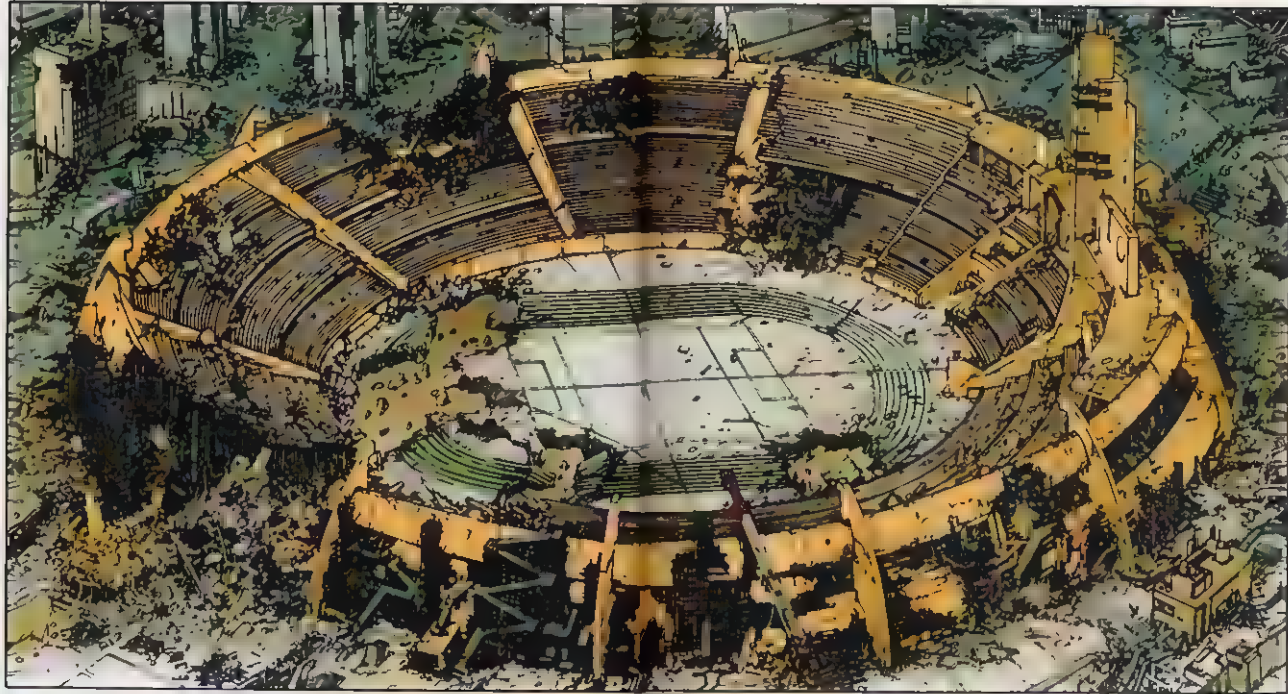














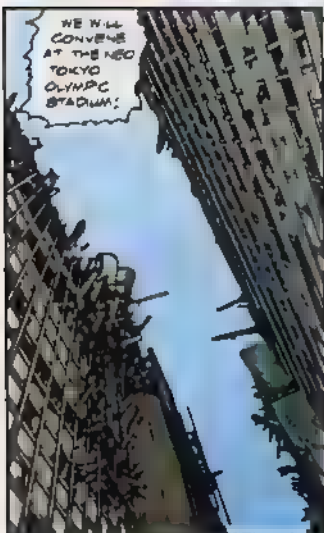
HEAR YE!

HEAR YE!

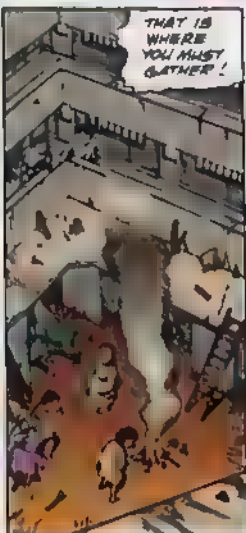
ATTENTION, ALL  
SUBJECTS OF  
THE GREAT TOKYO  
EMPIRE!



EVERYONE IS  
SUMMONED TO  
ATTEND OUR GRAND  
CONVOCATION! THERE  
SHALL BE NO  
EXCEPTIONS!



WE WILL  
CONVENE  
AT THE NEO  
TOKYO  
OLYMPIC  
STADIUM!



THAT IS  
WHERE  
YOU MUST  
GATHER!

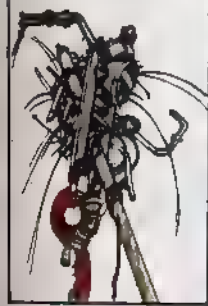


SHARE THE  
MOMENT OF  
SUPREME BLISS  
WITH OUR GREAT  
LORD AKIRA!

DON'T BE  
MISLED  
BY OUR OLD  
ENEMY,  
MIYAKO!

NOW IS  
THE TIME  
FOR US TO  
UNITE --

--UNDER THE  
LEADERSHIP OF  
OUR GREAT LORD  
AKIRA.



THE CONVOCATION  
MUST SUCCEED!



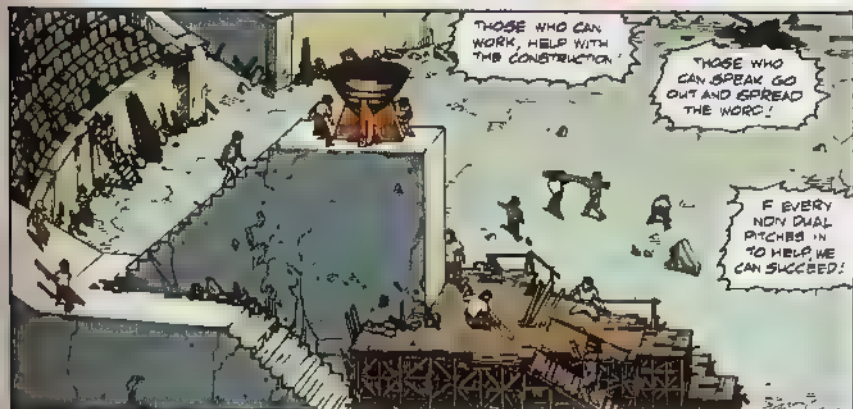
LORD AKIRA IS COUNTING ON  
HIS FAITHFUL SUBJECTS ...  
INCLUDING YOU, YOU LITTLE  
SHIT!

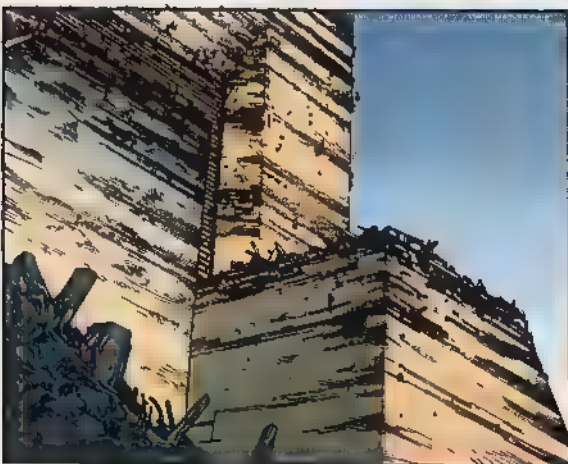
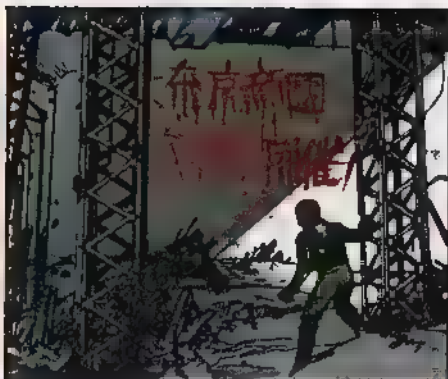
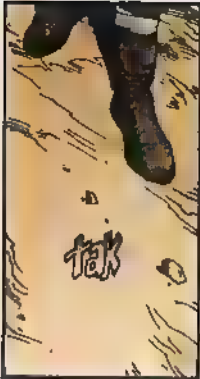


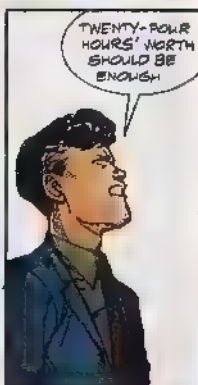
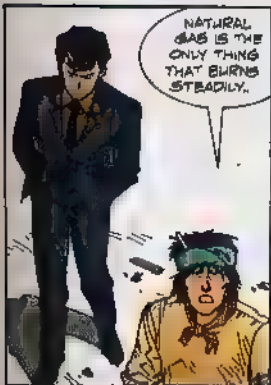
THOSE WHO CAN  
WORK, HELP WITH  
THE CONSTRUCTION!

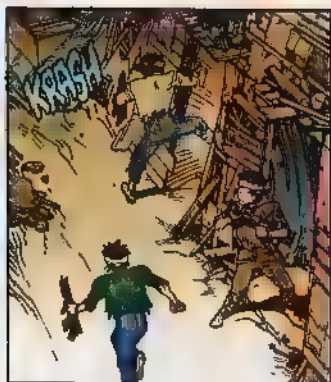
THOSE WHO  
CAN SPEAK GO  
OUT AND SPREAD  
THE WORD!

IF EVERY  
NON DUAL  
PITCHES IN  
TO HELP, WE  
CAN SUCCEED!

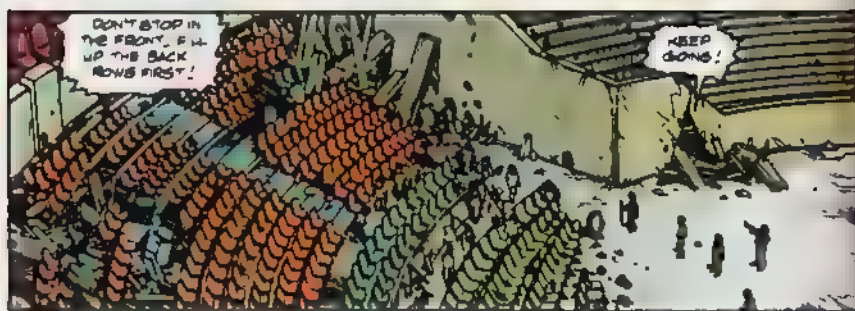
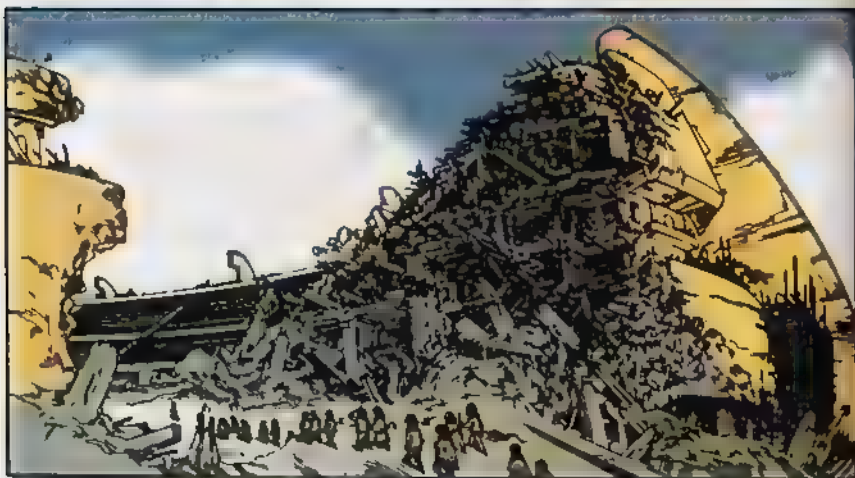


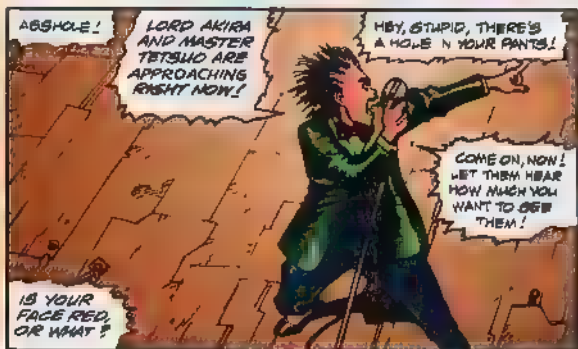
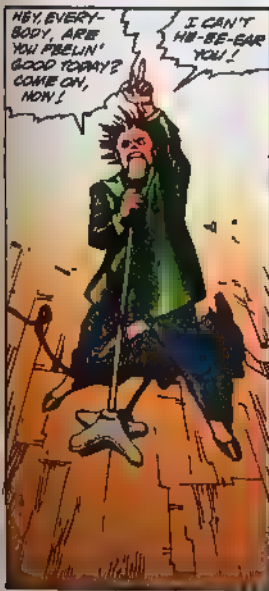
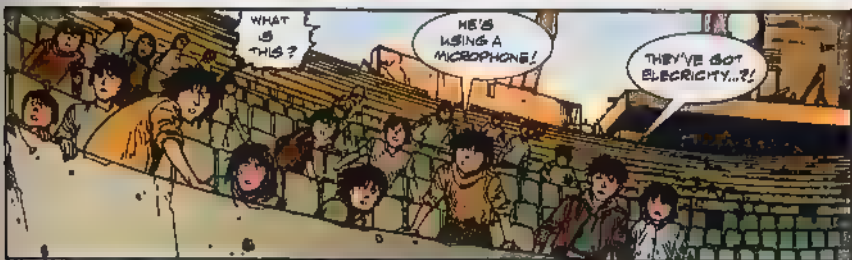






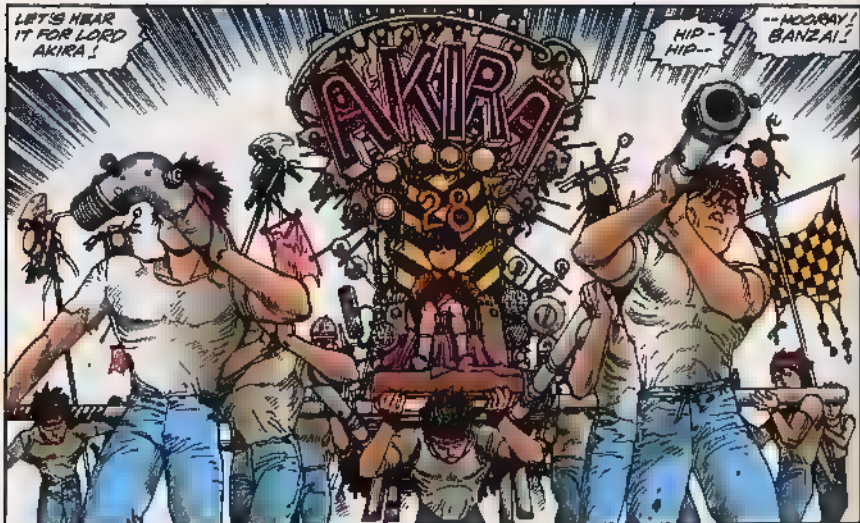


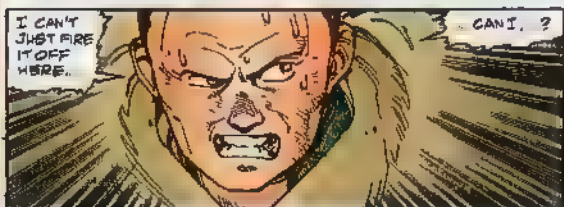


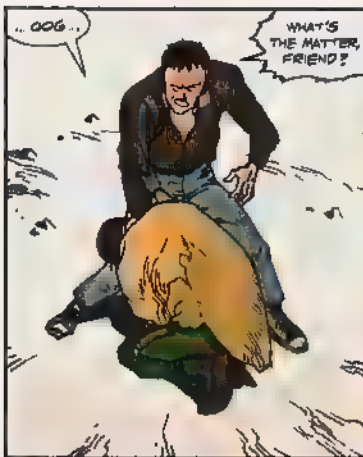


COME ON, NOW!  
LET THEM HEAR  
HOW MUCH YOU  
WANT TO SEE  
THEM!

IS YOUR  
FACE RED,  
OR WHAT?







... OOG...

WHAT'S  
THE MATTER,  
FRIEND?



YOU  
DON'T  
LOOK SO  
GOOD.



IT WAS  
A MISTAKE  
TO COUNT  
ME OUT

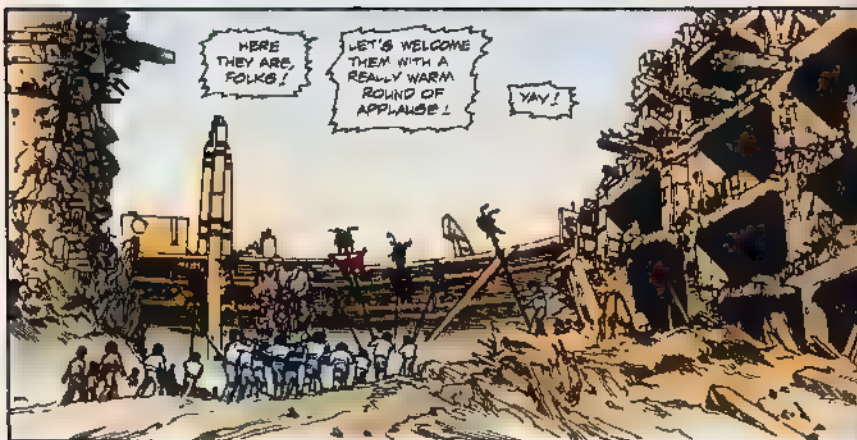
Y...



Y-YOU  
SCUMBUCKER...  
I'LL MAKE YOU  
SORRY.

YOU  
WERE  
BORN

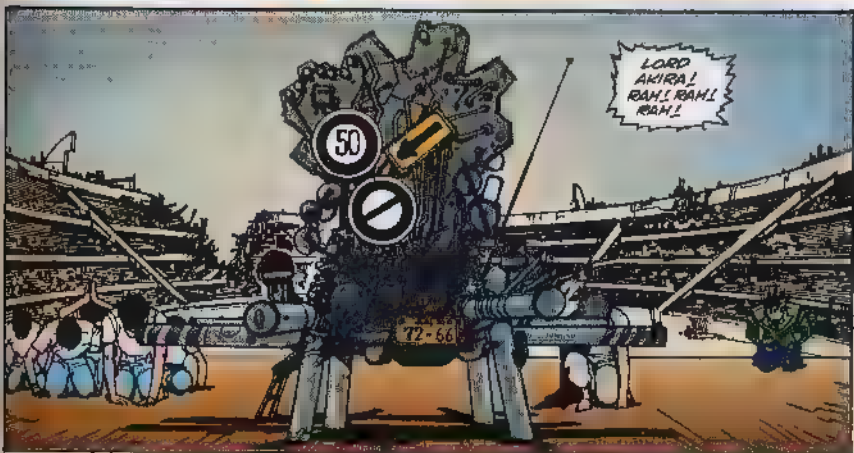
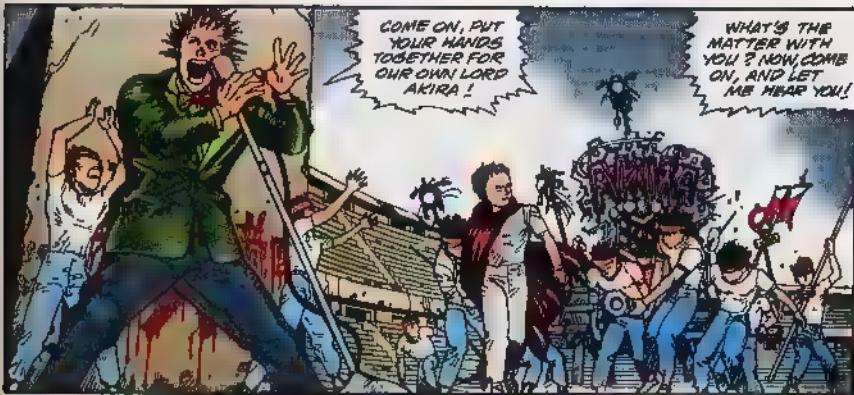
TRY NOT TO  
TAKE IT SO  
HARD I JUST  
BECAME ONE  
OF THE GOOD  
GUYS



HERE  
THEY ARE,  
FOLKS!

LET'S WELCOME  
THEM WITH A  
REALLY WARM  
ROUND OF  
APPLAUSE!

YAY!



**SHIFF SHIFF**

IT'S  
PRIORITY  
ONE, SIR!

ADMIRAL,  
WE'RE  
RECEIVING  
A MESSAGE!

THEY NEED  
YOU IN THE  
INFIRMARY!



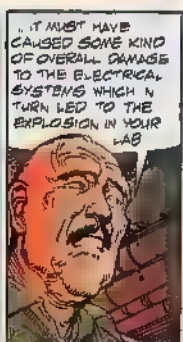
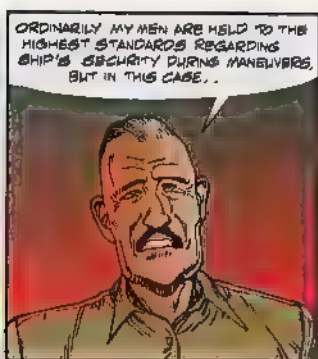
!

I WAS  
NOTIFIED  
THAT DR. GEORGE  
HOCK IS IN  
CRITICAL  
CONDITION!

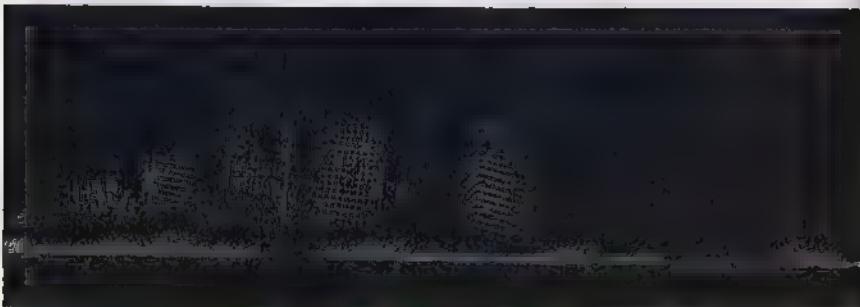
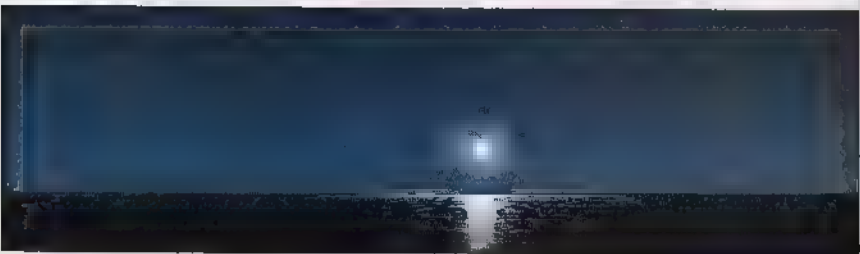
WAS THERE  
BEEN ANY  
IMPROVEMENT?

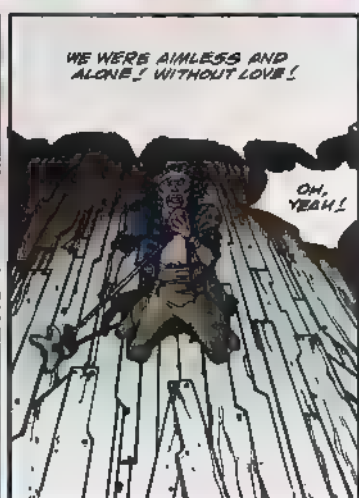
I...

UNDERSTAND THEY'RE  
TRYING TO SET THE  
BROKEN RIBS NOW AS  
FOR THE REST...



SHIT SHIT





GET YOUR FOOD HERE!  
GOOD, HOT FOOD HERE,  
FOR EVERYONE!

PLAY  
SOME DANCE  
MUSIC!

HE  
HEALED  
OUR PAIN!

BOOO!

GIVE  
IT UP,  
YOU  
DORK!

YOUR  
PLY'S  
OPEN!

THEN WE SAW A LIGHT!

HE SHOWED  
THE WAY!

WOO-OO-OO-OOO BECAUSE  
HE IS...

SING PRAISE  
TO MIGHTY  
LORD AKIRA!

LORD  
AKIRA!

DROP DEAD!

BANZA!

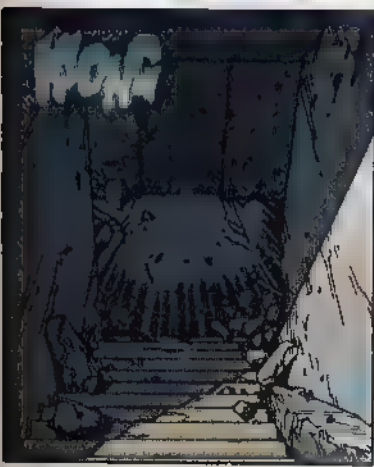
HOORAY!

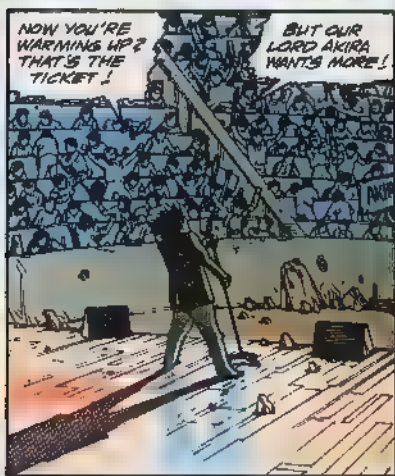
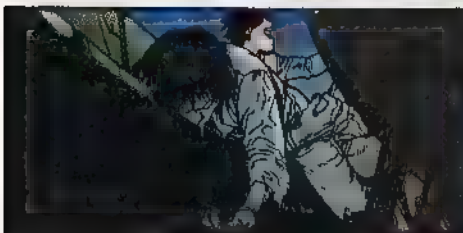
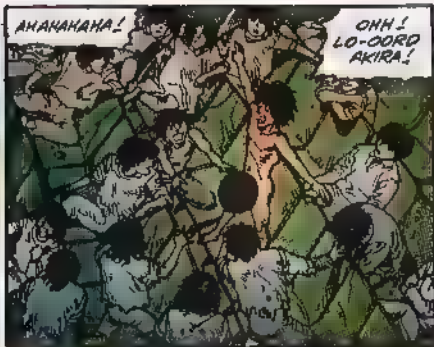
BOO!

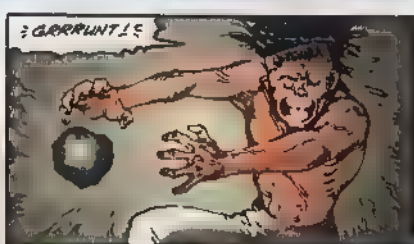
OVER  
HERE!

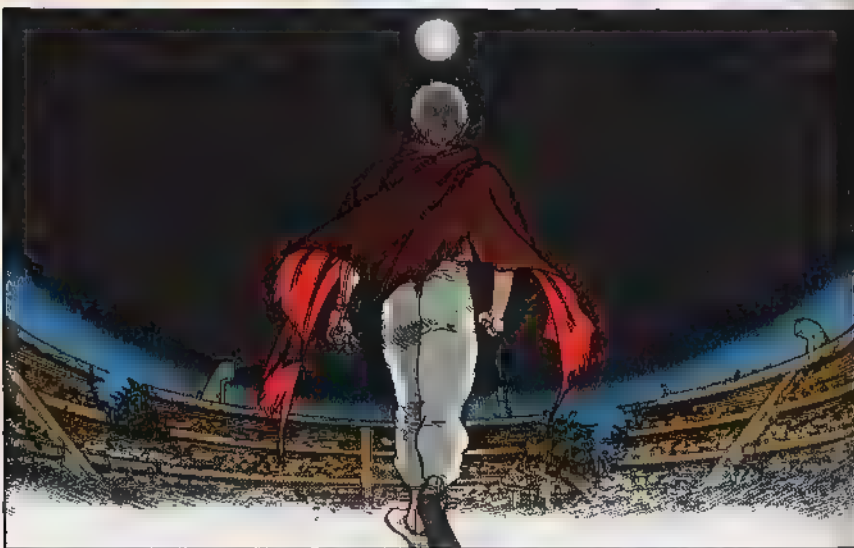
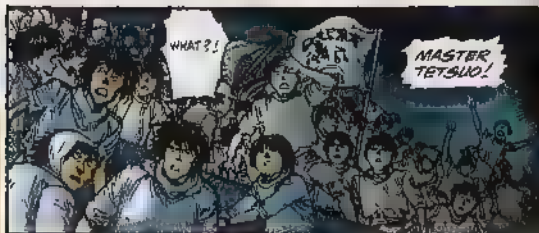
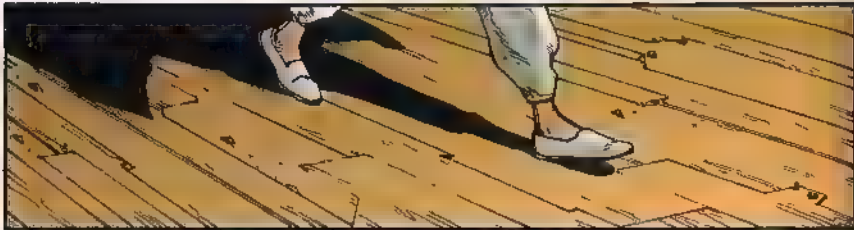
YAAAY!

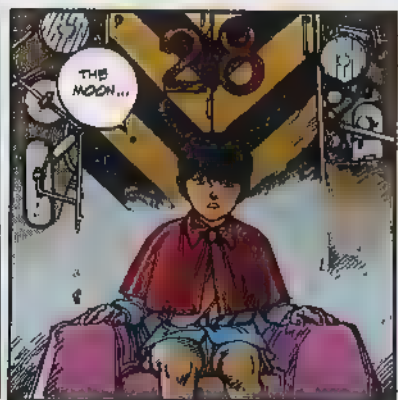
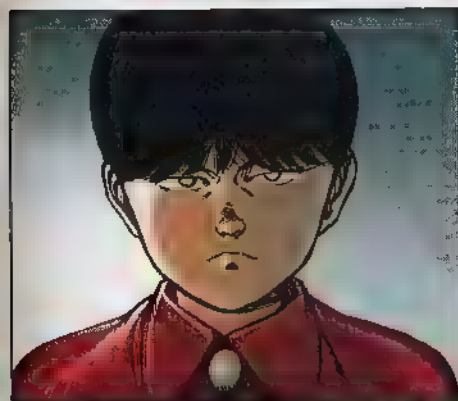
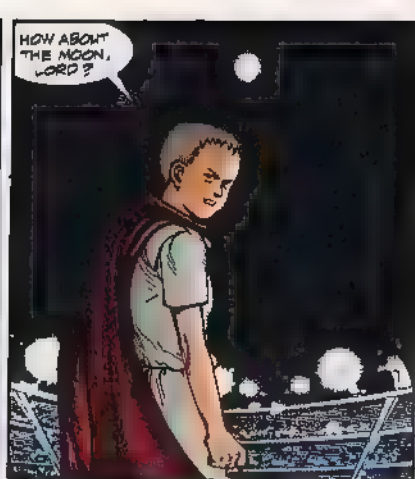
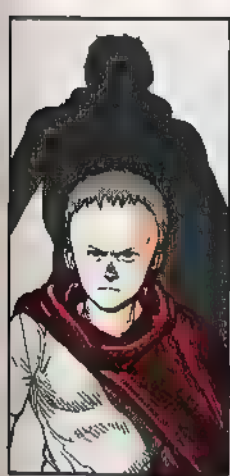
OUR  
GREAT  
LORD!

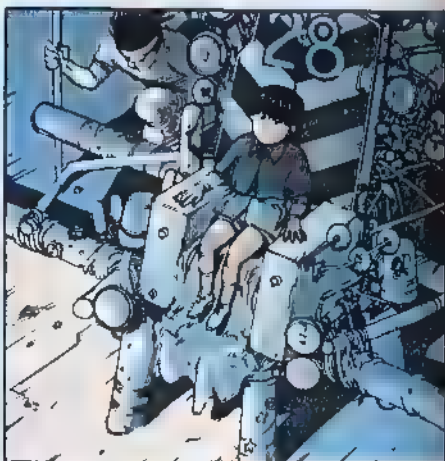
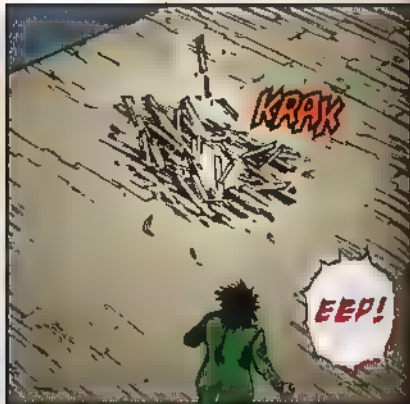
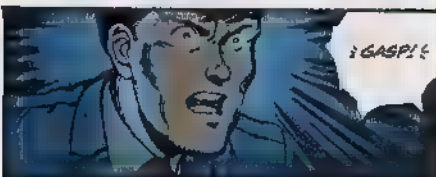






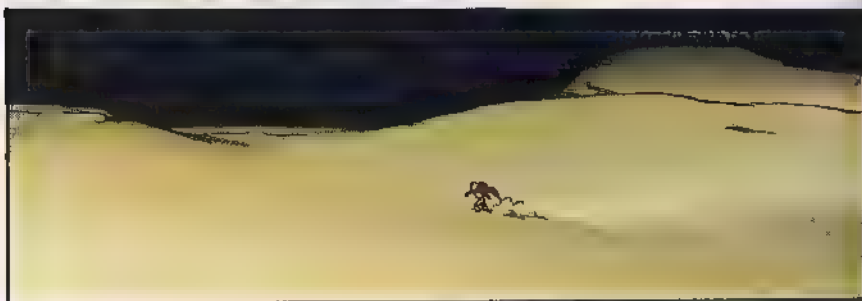
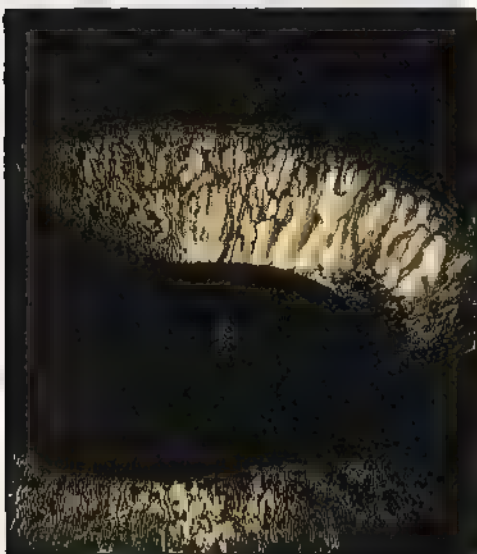


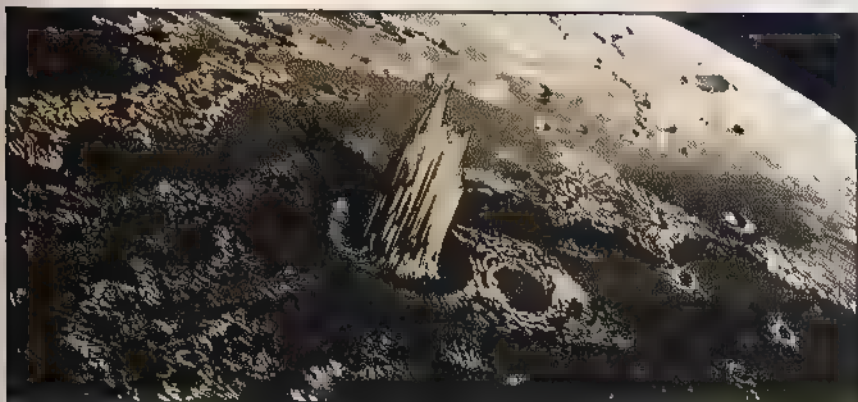
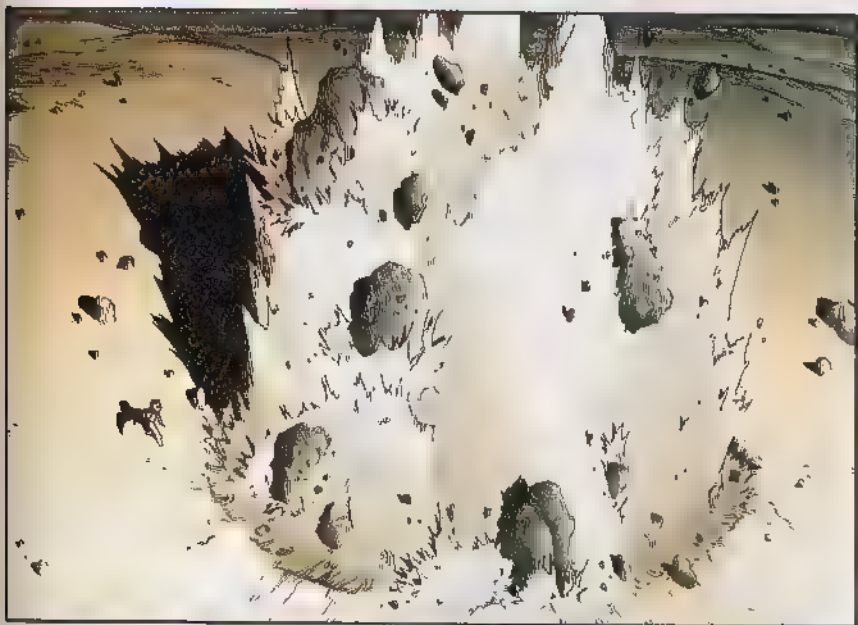
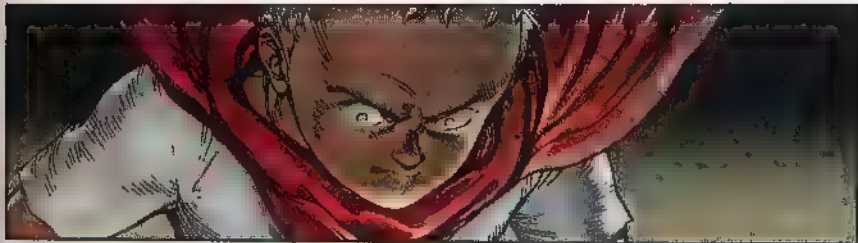


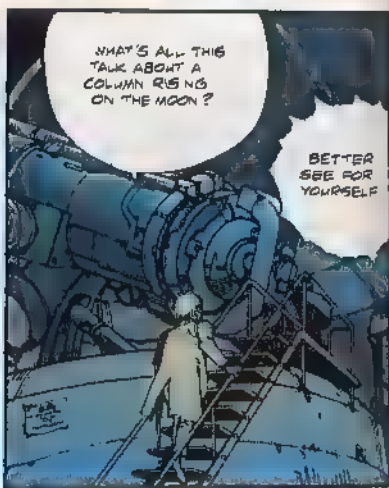
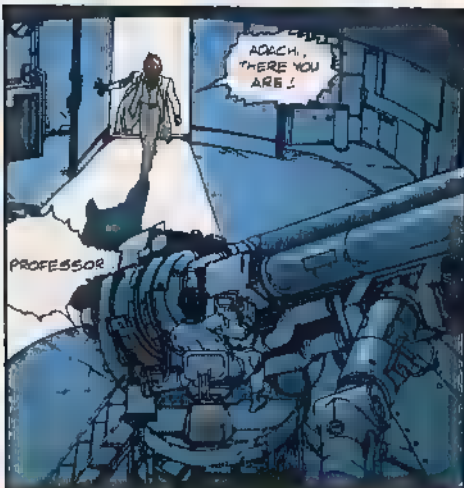
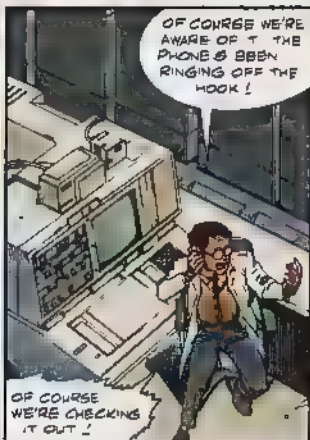


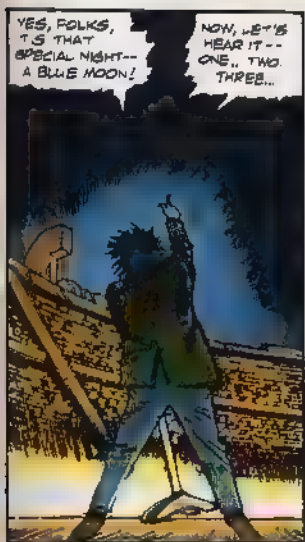
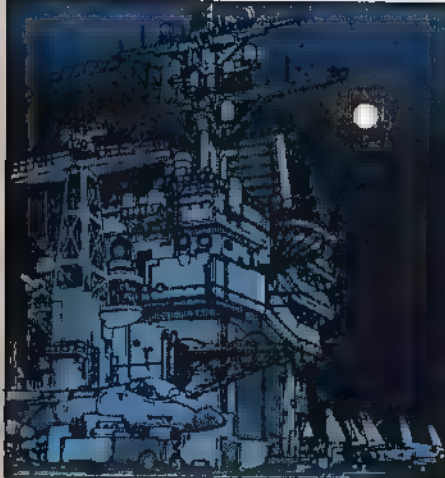


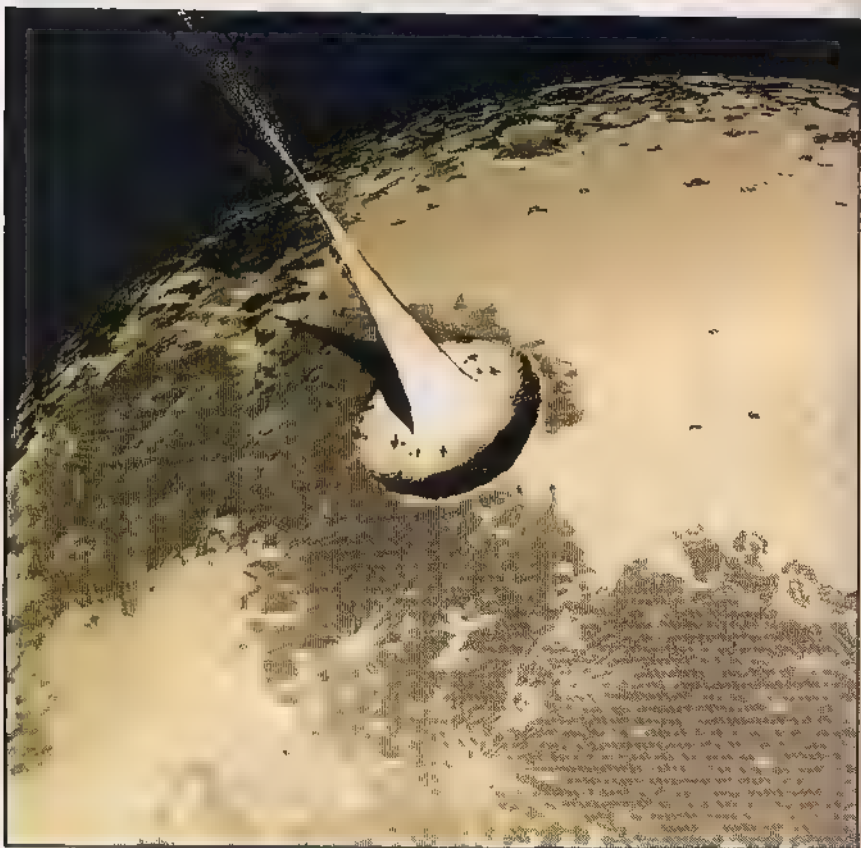
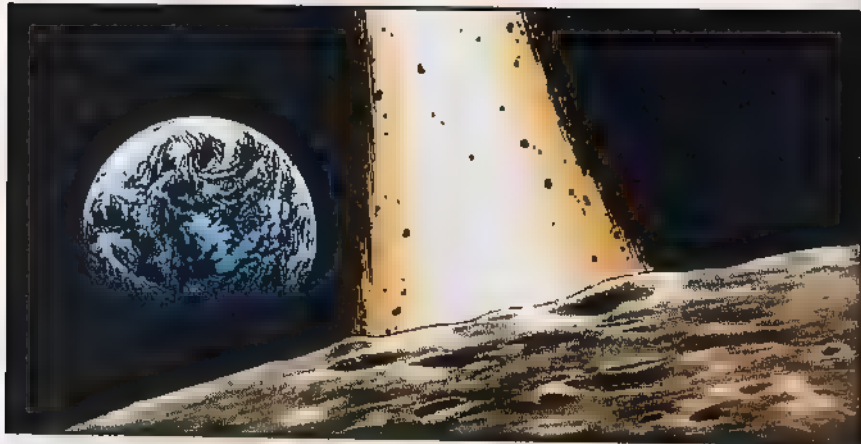


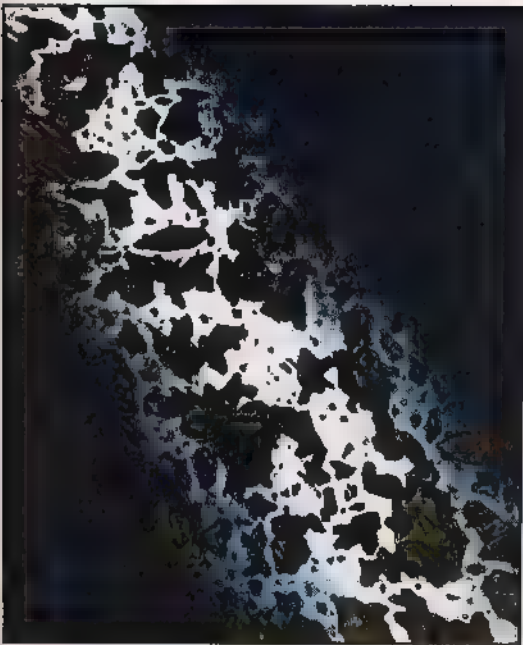


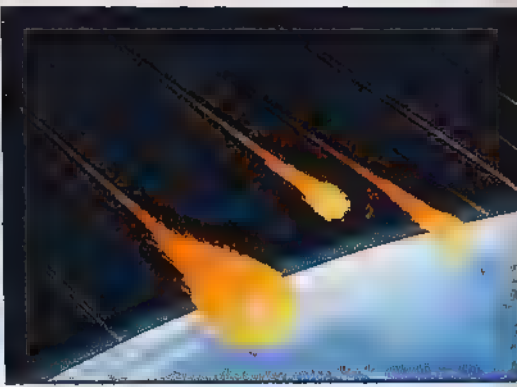
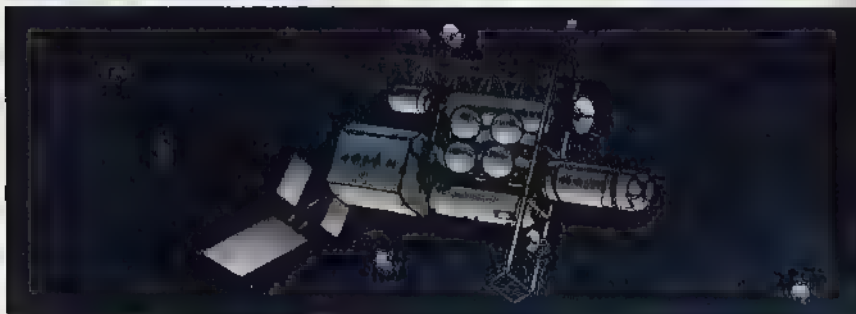
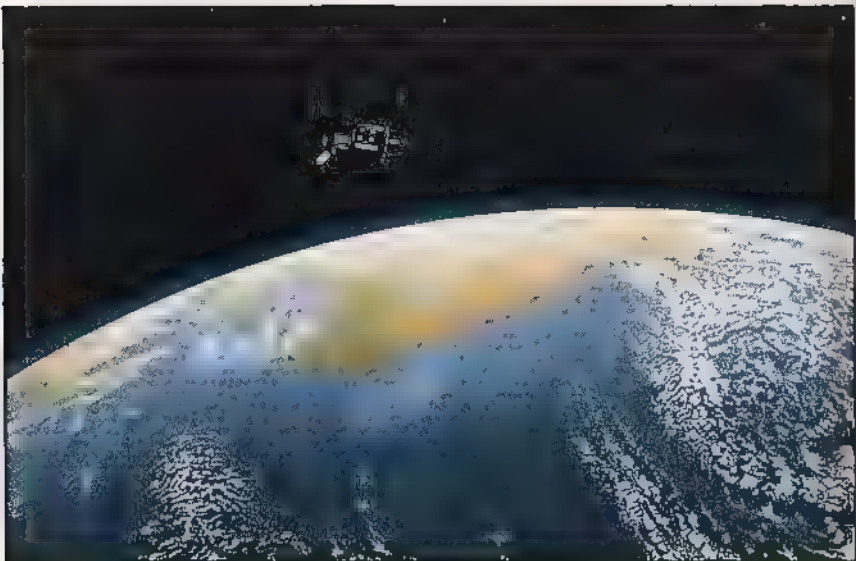


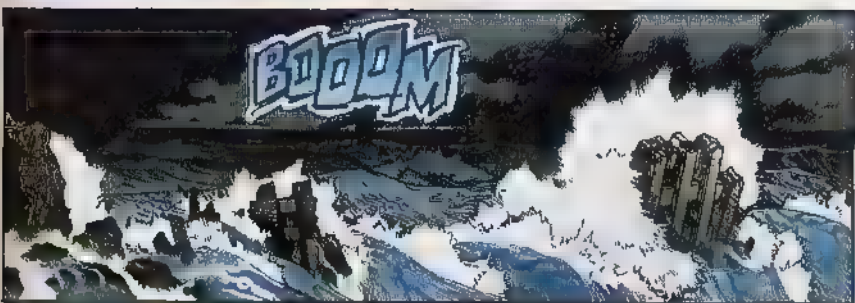














WASHED IN  
MOONLIGHT,  
WE TOOK THE  
LONG WAY  
HOME...

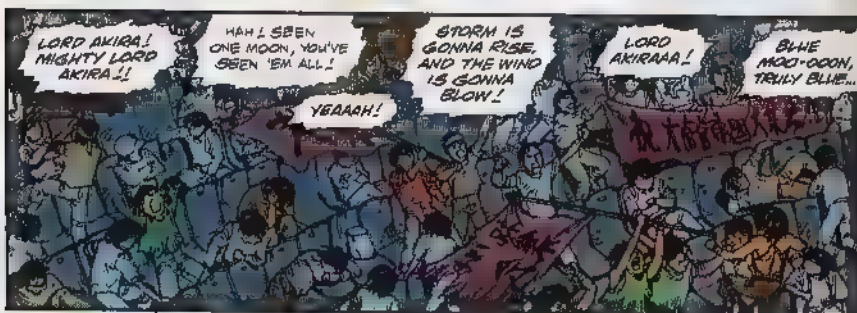
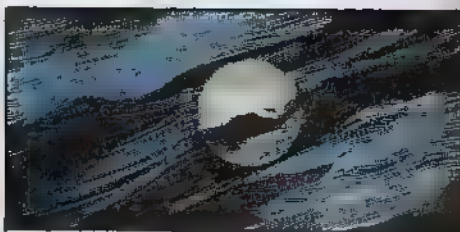
... ON A  
SENTIMENTAL  
JOURNEY TO  
THE PLACE  
WHERE WE  
FIRST MET...

大東京南區  
一丁目



HOLDING  
EACH OTHER  
AND HOLDING  
OUR DREAMS...

THE  
TWO OF US,  
GOING  
HOME...



LORD AKIRA!  
MIGHTY LORD  
AKIRA!!

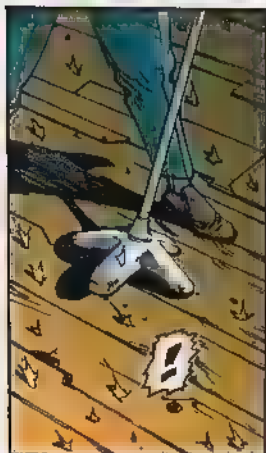
HAH! SEEN  
ONE MOON, YOU'VE  
SEEN 'EM ALL!

STORM IS  
GONNA RISE,  
AND THE WIND  
IS GONNA  
BLOW!

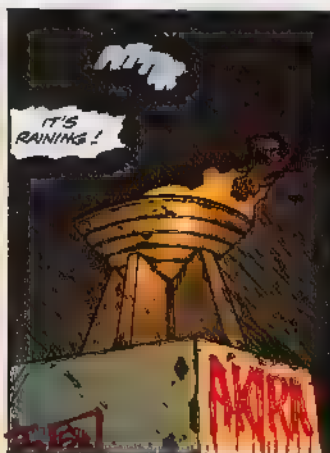
LORD  
AKIRAAA!

BLUE  
MOON-DOON,  
TRULY BLUE...

YEAH!!



9

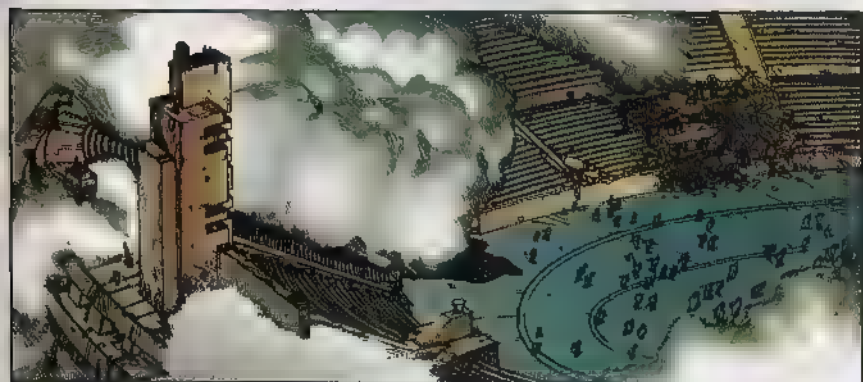
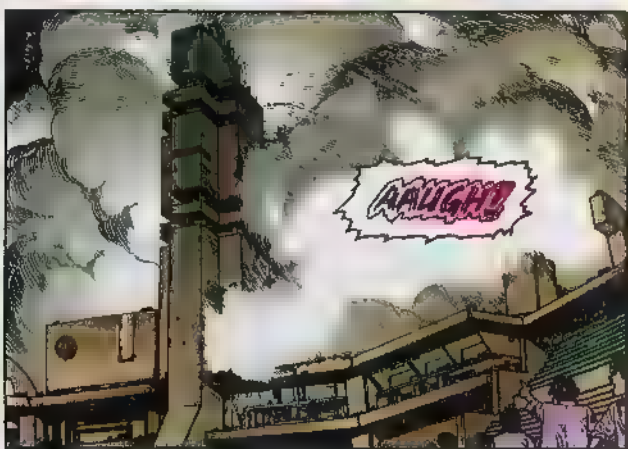
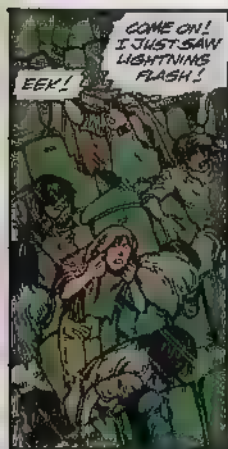


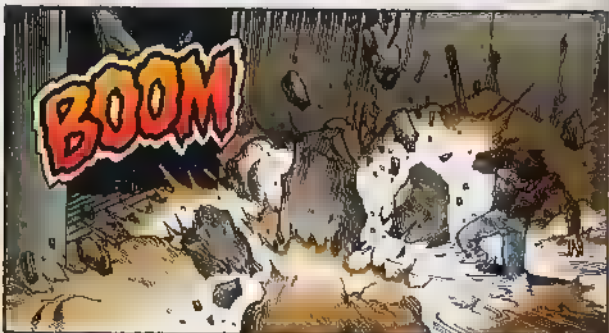
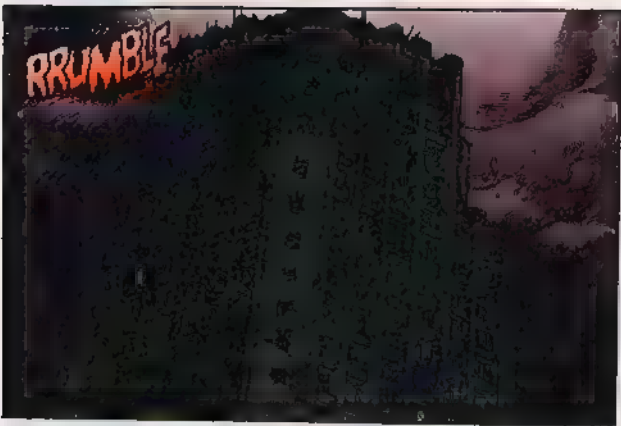
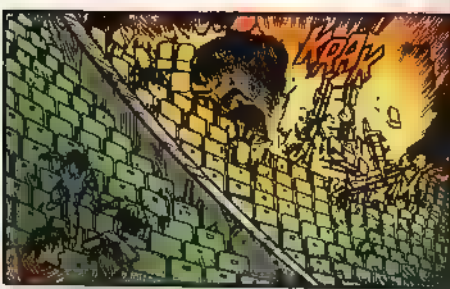
IT'S  
RAINING!

AKIRA



GET LORD  
AKIRA IN  
OUT OF THE  
RAIN!







NEXT ISSUE: **SWEPT AWAY**



## OTOMO VISITS NEW YORK

**Katsuhiro Otomo** conducted his first ever book signing at **Forbidden Planet**, New York on October 20, 1990. He signed comics, movie cels, posters, and other **Akira**-related materials for a half an hour.

Otomo was in town for the New York premiere of **Akira** the animated movie, and also met with the Epic staff to discuss current **Akira** work and plans for possible future collaborations. Above, Otomo meets with Jo Duffy, the writer of the English adaptation of **Akira**.

### **AKIRA: the movie** **AN UPDATE**

Since its U.S. release over a year ago, **Akira** has enjoyed success beyond all anticipation at box offices across the country. Though its first run ended last summer in most cities, **Akira** will be returning to New York in March as part of a Japanese film festival at the **Film Forum**, where it set a theater record for the number of weeks held over last fall.

Meanwhile, in response to overwhelming public demand, **Streamline Pictures** released the English-speaking version of **Akira** on video tape on February 12 of this year. The tape will not be available in video stores, but may be obtained directly through comic book stores or mail order. Information about the video tape and animation cels is available from **STREAMLINE PICTURES, P.O. BOX 691418, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069.**



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writer/illustrator

**YASUMITSU SUETAKE**

chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

**SATOSHI TAKABATAKE**

assistant to Mr. Otomo

**HIROSHI HIRATA**

designer • AKIRA calligraphy

**AKIRA SAITO**

designer • Kodansha edition

**Kodansha, Ltd.**

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**YUKA ANDO**

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**NORIYUKI OKAZAKI**

managing editor • New York

**Epic Comics**

**JO DUFFY**

english adaptation

**STEVE OLIFF**

with the

**OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW**

colorists

**CHRIS ELIOPOULOS**

letterer

**POLLY WATSON**

assistant editor

**MAIHE JAVINS**

managing editor

**MARC McLAURIN**

editor

**CARL POTTS**

executive editor

**T**he Great Tokyo Empire under Emperor Akira plans a grand convocation, a festive gala to be attended by one and all — for there's plenty to celebrate in Neo-Tokyo this day. Starvation in the ruins. The winds of war between the forces of the Emperor and Lady Miyako. The threat of a super power attack with bio-chemical weapons. And Tetsuo toying with the very fabric of the cosmos itself. Rejoice, indeed . . . for tomorrow may be even worse . . .

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

